

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SAB-01 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 SCI-06 EUR-25 AGR-20 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /207 W

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R 091516Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

RUEHCRJXANEMBASSY BANJUL 140

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, LY, EG, SY

SUBJECT: ARAB DELEGATION VISITS LAGOS

SUMMARY: THREE-MAN ARAB DELEGATION VISITED LAGOS

JAN. 6 AND WILL RETURN

JAN. 28. END SUMMARY

1. THREE-MAN DELEGATION FROM CONFEDERATION OF ARAB
REPUBLICS (EGYPT, LIBYA AND SYRIA) ARRIVED IN LAGOS

JAN. 6 FOR 3-DAY OFFICIAL

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VISIT TO NIGERIA. AVOWED

PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO FMG
AND GOWON
FOR SUPPORT GIVEN TO ARABS IN MID-EAST
CONFLICT. DELEGATION COMPRISED
MOHAMMED TAHA HADDAD
(CHAIRMAN OF DELEGATION AND CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE
CONFEDERATION) OF SYRIA, OMAR TOSSONE OF EGYPT AND
ABBAS HWAJI OF LIBYA.

2. AT ARRIVAL IN LAGOS CHAIRMAN OF DELEGATION SAID
ARAB STATES HAD ORIGINALLY NO INTENTION OF GOING TO
WAR WITH ISRAEL BUT WERE FORCED TO DO SO AS MEANS
OF ACHIEVING JUSTICE. HE REITERATED VIEW THAT
LASTING PEACE IN MED-EAST CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY
ISRAELI EVACUATION OF ARAB LANDS. DESCRIBING
NIGERIA'S AND OTHER OAU MEMBERS' BREAK WITH ISRAEL
AS A POSITIVE MEASURE OF IMPORTANCE TO THE ARAB
CAUSE, HE POINTED OUT THAT ARAB COUNTRIES HAD ALL
AGREED TO STOP SUPPLY OF OIL TO SOUTH AFRICA,
PORTUGAL AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA. HE ALSO DISCLOSED
THAT CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS WOULD BE
SETTING UP AN ARAB BANK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA. HADDAD CALLED ON ALL OAU
MEMBERS TO ISOLATE ISRAEL DIPLOMATICALLY UNTIL IT
ABIDES BY ALL UN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED SINCE 1967.

3. WHILE IN LAGOS DELEGATION SAW CHIEF OF STAFF
VICE-ADMIRAL WEY AND MEA PERMSEC IYALLA AND WAS
HOSTED AT RECEPTION BY CHAIRMAN/MANAGING DIRECTOR
OF DAILY TIMES GROUP OF COMPANIES, ALHAJI BABATUNDE
JOSE. DELEGATION WAS UNABLE TO SEE GOWON WHO WAS
UP COUNTRY FOR A BRIEF HOLIDAY, BUT IS EXPECTED
RETURN TO LAGOS JAN 28 TO DISCUSS WITH HIM "THOSE
MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO CONSOLIDATE ARAB/AFRICAN
SOLIDARITY." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CONFEDER-
ATION HAS PLANS TO OPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
LESOTHO AND BOTSWANA DESPITE FACT THESE COUNTRIES
STILL HAVE NOT BROKEN WITH ISRAEL.

4. DELEGATION WILL ALSO VISIT TOGO, GHANA, IVORY
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COAST, LIBERIA AND GAMBIA.

5. COMMENT: DELEGATION VISIT IS EVIDENTLY ONE
OF MANY BEING ORGANIZED BY ARAB STATES THROUGHOUT
AFRICA. IN ADDITION GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH GOWON
AS OAU CHAIRMAN, DELEGATION MAY PLAN RAISE WITH
HIM AGAIN ARAB LEAGUE INTEREST IN OPENING LAGOS
OFFICE (PREVIOUSLY REBUFFED BY FMG) AND PERHAPS

POSSIBILITY SOME FORM OF PLO REPRESENTATION.
(WHILE FMG MIGHT RELENT ON FORMER, PLO WOULD
ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT BE WELC MED SINCE FMG HIGHLY
SUSPICIOUS OF PALESTINIAN ACTIVITIES.) DELEGATION
MAY ALSO ATTEMPT GET FMG FOLLOW MORE CLOSLEY
ARAB OIL POLICY VIS-A-VIS SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL,
BUT NIGERIANS LIKELY CONTINUE SET OIL POLICY
IN ACCORDANCE WITH OWN INTERESTS. ON NIGERIAN SIDE,
GOWON MAY PRESS VISITORS FOR STRONGER ARAB SUPPORT
ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS OR FOR PROMPT
IMPLEMENTATION OF ARAB AID PROPOSALS TO AF
STATES AFFECTED BY OIL PRICE BOOSTS.
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